



Docket No.: 1083.1049/MJB

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9/17/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Ryuichi MATSUKURA

Serial No. 09/017,329

Group Art Unit: 2152

Confirmation No. 8159

Filed: February 2, 1998

Examiner: J. Cardone

For: COMPUTER NETWORK SYSTEM AND PORTABLE COMPUTER

RESPONSE

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SEP 17 2002

Sir:

Technology Center 2100

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 13, 2002, and having a period for response set to expire on September 13, 2002.

The following remarks are respectfully submitted. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 16-21 are pending and under consideration and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,991,846 to Ooki in view of U.S. Patent 6,385,622 to Bouve et al.

Ooki

With respect to Ooki, the Examiner states that Ooki teaches the claimed first and second computers. However, Ooki employs only one computer. Furthermore, it appears that at page 3, lines 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner mistakenly cites col. 2, lines 16-47 of Ooki. It appears that the Examiner is referring to col. 3, lines 16-47.

Bouve

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, including a position in the real world for each of the resources, "which are usable through said network circuit." These features are shown, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2 of the present application. FIG. 1 illustrates client

computer 4 connected to the printers 5a, 5b, 5c. FIG. 2 shows printer information, including a position in the real world of the printers.

The Examiner acknowledges that Ooki does not teach information including position in the real world for the resources, but instead relies upon Bouve et al. This reference discloses a database which includes "items of interest" such as products, stores and services. Bouve et al. col. 1, ln. 60-64. A remote user is able to search for these items of interest according to geographical vicinity. Thus, when the information regarding the items of interest is transmitted to the user, geographical information is included. For example, a user in New York can obtain information about sporting shops near an airport in Chicago. Bouve et al., Abstract. According to the Examiner, the "items of interest" correspond to the claimed resources.

Unlike the printers 5a-5c of the present Application, the actual "items of interest" of Bouve et al. are not connected to the user's computer. Instead, the user is connected to a database, and receives information about the items of interest from the database. For example, the user in New York is not actually connected to the sporting shops in Chicago, but only receives information about the shops. Although the user is connected to the database, he does not receive position information for the database.

Thus, the present position information is necessary for an actual use of the resources, whereas the position information disclosed by Bouve et al. is indicative of mere a location of information regarding an item of interest, such as a store. Thus, according to Bouve et al., the location information of item of interest cannot be utilized as resources.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is patentable over the Examiner's references. The remaining claims are similarly allowable.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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